(b) The stocks of wheat in Central Pool as on April 1, 1991 were 56.45 lakhs tonnes.

(c) The procurement of wheat during 1991-92 marketing season (April-march) as on 28.2.1992 has been 77.52 lakh tonnes.

(d) A quantity of 70.95 lakh tonnes, 64.52 lakh tonnes and 89.06 lakh tonnes of wheat was distributed from the Central Pool for Public Distribution system during 1989, 1990 and 1991 respectively.

[*Translation*]

Fixing of Margin on Supply of Foodgrains

2332. SHRI ARVIND NETAM:
SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government on supply of foodgrains to States on concessional rates for tribal areas;

(b) whether several States have demanded increase in this margin;

(c) if so, the action taken so far in this regard;

(d) whether the amount of margin fixed by the Union Government is less than the actual expenditure incurred by the State Governments; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Union Government to make up the losses being incurred by the Food and Supply departments of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Rs. 25.00 per quintal.

(b) to (d). Yes, Sir, some States have conveyed that the margin allowed is inadequate and does not fully cover their actual transport and distribution charges etc.

(e) In cases where the margin is regarded as inadequate, the balance is to be borne by the States themselves as part of their own contribution towards the welfare of the tribal population.

Oil Slick in Bay of Bengal

2333. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
DR. ASIM BALA
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:
SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHRAYA
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA.
SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an oil slick is threatening animal and plant life in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether the slick is also threatening the mangrove forests in Sunderbans,

(c) if so, how this slick has occured, and

(d) the steps being taken to counte nance this situation before this slick moves towards the land in Sunderbans forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40